

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendraye  
Ellen Gavin  
Marshall Johnson  
Phyllis A. Reha  
Gregory Scott

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of an Investigation into Using  
Rate Design to Achieve the Demand-Side  
Management Goals of Xcel Energy

ISSUE DATE: January 24, 2003

DOCKET NO. E-002/CI-01-1024

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Time of Use  
Rate Proposal

DOCKET NO. E-002/M-02-1894

ORDER SUSPENDING IMPLEMENTATION  
DATES

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On February 14, 2002, the Commission issued its ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE. That Order directed Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) to design residential time of use (TOU) rates, which would charge consumers different rates for electricity consumed at different times of the day. The Order also directed Xcel to design a way for a consumer to learn, on the World Wide Web, the history of how much electricity his or her household consumed each hour of the day. The Commission directed Xcel to initiate the Web tool on July 1, 2002, to file proposed TOU rates on November 1, 2002, for implementation by April 1, 2003, and to report periodically on the progress toward meeting these goals.

The Commission authorized the extension of these deadlines in its ORDER MODIFYING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND MAKING OTHER CHANGES (April 24, 2002) and its ORDER MODIFYING AUTHORITY TO EXTEND DEADLINES (October 17, 2002).

On October 28, 2002, Xcel asked to defer implementing the Web tool until after the Commission and interested parties had had the opportunity to comment on it. The next day the Commission extended the implementation date for the Web tool to February 1, 2003, and invited comments on the Web tool.

On November 1, 2002, Xcel filed a proposal for residential TOU rates.<sup>1</sup> The Commission subsequently invited comments on those rates.

On November 6, 2002, Xcel filed a request to extend the deadline for implementing the TOU pilot program.

On November 18, the Commission extended the comment period on the TOU rates to January 2, 2003, with replies due January 13.

By December 9, the Commission had received comments from the Energy CENTS Coalition, the Minnesota Department of Commerce (the Department), the Office of the Attorney General's Residential and Small Business Utilities Division (RUD-OAG), and Xcel. These comments were substantive, and did not focus on the extension requests.

On January 2, 2003, the Commission again extended the comment period on the TOU rates to February 3, with replies due February 13.<sup>2</sup>

The issue of whether to extend the date for implementing the Web tool and the TOU pilot program came before the Commission on January 9, 2003. At the hearing, the Department, RUD-OAG and Xcel recommended granting the extensions. No one opposed the extensions.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

As noted above, Xcel asks to extend the time for implementing the Web tool until after the Commission and interested parties have had the opportunity to review the tool and have provided feedback. Additionally, Xcel proposes extending the date for implementing the TOU pilot program. Xcel claims that it needs to begin incurring certain expenses to permit it to meet an April 1 implementation date. Since the Commission had previously expressed concerns about the program's costs, Xcel suggested that extending the implementation date would permit Xcel to defer certain expenditures until after the Commission had had an opportunity to review the program.

The Department and RUD-OAG do not agree with Xcel on all aspects of this docket, but they agree that Xcel should not be compelled to meet the April 1 deadline for implementing the TOU pilot program. They also support extending the deadline for implementing the Web tool, noting that they had not yet had the opportunity to review and comment on the tool.

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<sup>1</sup> This proposal was assigned to Docket No. E-002/M-02-1894 *In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Time of Use Rate Proposal*.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, Extension Notice.

The Energy CENTS Coalition did not address these scheduling issues.

The Commission finds Xcel's requests to defer the implementation dates reasonable and will approve them. Soon the Commission will address the more substantive concerns in this docket; the Commission will be better able to establish an appropriate implementation schedule at that time.

### **ORDER**

1. Both the February 1, 2003, implementation date for the Web tool and the April 1, 2003, implementation date for the Time of Use pilot program are suspended.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

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